

**Enrolled Minutes of the Sixth Regular Meeting
For the Twenty-Sixth Highland Town Council
Monday, March 24, 2008**

Study Session. The Twenty Fifth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in a study session preceding the regular meeting on Monday, March 24, 2008 at 6:30 O'clock P.M. in the regular place, the meeting chambers of the Highland Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana.

Silent Roll Call: Councilors Bernie Zemen, Mark Herak, Dan Vassar, Brian Novak and Konnie Kuiper were present. The Clerk-Treasurer, Michael W. Griffin was present to memorialize the proceedings. A quorum was attained.

General Substance of Matters Discussed.

1. The Town Council discussed the imminent agenda. The Town Clerk-Treasurer indicated that owing to an upper respiratory illness, he was unable prepare fully some of the several ordinances and the March 10, 2008 minutes for the consideration of the Town Council. He advised that it was his intention to have these ready for the April meeting.
2. The Town Council discussed this issue of changing from the current group dental plans, Guardian and Commonwealth (DMO), which only serves 6 workers of the municipality. It was noted that the alternative proposal obtained by the Insurance broker, Tom Brown, was from United Health Care, and presented a premium reduction from the current, pre-renewal premiums of Guardian. It was further noted that the United Health Care proposal would be lock premiums at the proposed rates for 2 years. United Health Care also was the underwriter for the group health insurance plan. The discussion noted that Guardian had been the dental plan underwriter with the unit for several years. It was still further noted that Mr. Brown represented that the United Health Care dental plan had matched all elements of the Guardian group dental plan. It was still further noted that perhaps the municipality should move to offering single group dental plan rather than maintain one traditional, PPO group and one DMO.

The discussion still further included whether or not any cost savings would be over come by the idea of worker having some plan continuity. There was some confusion exhibited about whether or not there was a true savings with the alternative if the municipality would migrate to the alternative United Health Care Plan. There was also some confusion exhibited about whether or not there had been any worker orientation/feedback and discussion as some members of the Town Council had requested before any action was taken on the renewal. It was still further noted that the Guardian (current) plan was subject to renewal on March 1. The Council was working toward an April 1 renewal. The Town Council President indicated that he would contact Mr. Tom Brown of Koester and Brown as broker to refine a presentation, for both the current carrier Guardian and United Health Care and have it ready for action at the meeting of April 14, 2008.

3. The Town Council briefly acknowledged a letter from CGI Communications, Inc. in which it offered to prepare a promotional streaming (on-line) video to promote the Town of Highland. The Redevelopment Director would contact CGI Communications and follow-up on the matter.

The study session ended at 7:05 O'clock p.m.

Regular Meeting. The Twenty Fifth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in its regular session on Monday, March 24, 2008 at 7:08 O'clock P.M. in the regular place, the

plenary meeting chambers of the Highland Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana.

The Town Council President Bernie Zemen presided and the Town Clerk-Treasurer was present to memorialize the proceedings.

The session was opened with Councilor Konnie Kuiper leading the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag and offering a prayer.

Roll Call: Present on roll call were Council Members Bernie Zemen, Mark Herak, Dan Vassar, Brian Novak, and Konnie Kuiper. The Town Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin was present. A quorum was attained.

Additional Officials Present: Rhett Tauber, Town Council Attorney; John M. Bach, Public Works Director; Deputy Commander George Georgeff, Metropolitan Police; Kenneth J. Mika, Building Commissioner; William R. Timmer, CFOD, Fire Chief; and Cecile Petro, Redevelopment Director.

Lisa Gauthier and Laurel Roach of the Special Events Advisory Committee were also present.

Comments from the Public for Topics on the Agenda

This portion of the Town Council Meeting is reserved for persons who desire to address the Town Council. Depending on the nature of the comments, the Town Council may direct the staff to address the topic or follow-up on matters that may arise from public comments. Persons addressing the Town Council are requested to limit their presentations to **three (3) minutes** and to try to avoid repetitious comments.

There were no comments.

Unfinished Business and General Orders:

1. *Selection or renewal of group Dental Plans.* Current provider rates are proposed for Employee only at \$29.96 and for Employee and dependents at \$86.96 per month; Current rates are Employee only, \$28.53 per month and Employee and dependents \$82.82. The proposed rates from United Health care are Employee rate at \$28.37 per month and Employee and dependents at 82.61 per month.

Councilor Vassar moved that the current matter be delayed and that the Town Council President instruct Tom Brown to make a request of Guardian Insurance to review its submitted proposal and without revealing the current United Health Care Dental Proposal, to refine and improve its quote. Councilor Kuiper seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The matter was delayed until a refined quote could be obtained.

Amendment of Agenda. Councilor Herak moved that the agenda be amended to permit consideration of modification to the *Special Events Advisory Committee as to its structure and size and to permit appointments to be made.* Councilor Vassar seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a two-thirds vote being necessary, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The agenda was amended to include the matter of the Special Events Advisory Committee Structure and to make appointments.

2. **Modification to the Special Events Advisory Committee as to its structure and size.** It was noted that any modifications would still require the passage and adoption of an amendment by ordinance to the Highland municipal code. Councilor Herak moved that the current Special Events Advisory Committee be modified by adding four members to its current 7 members, bringing the size to 11 and further that the four additional members be legislative appointments with a term of one year, with any appointments to be effective

from January 1, 2008, subject to passage and adoption of the necessary amending ordinance. Councilor Novak seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The modification was adopted subject to passage and adoption of the necessary amending ordinance.

3. Appointments to the Special Events Advisory Committee.

- (a) **Legislative Appointment. Existing Vacancy of Position formerly Held by Shelley Mayden.** (*Current Ordinance provides for this position*). Councilor Vassar moved to appoint *Karen Ziants, 9018 Woodward, Highland*, to fulfill the unexpired term of Shelley Mayden. Councilor Kuiper seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. Ms. Ziants was appointed.
- (b) **Legislative Appointments. New positions just authorized for one-year terms, subject to passage and adoption of amending ordinance.** Councilor Vassar moved and Councilor Kuiper seconded to appoint to the Special Events Advisory Committee, the following persons:

Rose James, 3338 LaPorte Street, Highland.
Doreen Kitchell, 3020 Hess Drive, Highland.
Shiela Wadkins, 2436 Wicker Avenue, Highland.
John Brezlin, 8539 Henry Street, Highland.

Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The persons were appointed subject to the adoption of the proper amending ordinance.

With leave from the Town Council, Councilor Vassar requested a report from the Special Events Advisory Committee be regularly presented to the Town Council by one of its members on the status of the committee's work. It was suggested that member Laurel Roach, who was present, may be the person responsible for honoring the request.

Committee Reports

- **Councilor Mark Herak:** *Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals Liaison • Board of Sanitary Commissioners Liaison • Special Events Advisory Committee, Liaison.*

Councilor Herak reported on the selection of Lawson-Fisher and Associates as the project managers for the smoke testing to identify further the possible compromised sanitary sewer infrastructure as suggested by the report presented by DLZ Engineering.

- **Councilor Dan Vassar:** *Parks and Recreation Board Liaison • Building and Inspection Committee • Plan Commission member.*

Councilor Vassar reported from the Parks and Recreation Department the several recommendations for the Master Plan, including possible capital projects related to the retrofit of the Lincoln Center. Councilor Vassar expressed his concern about the adequacy of staffing or any new staffing needs that may be necessary associated with the proposed capital plans.

Councilor Vassar presented a brief survey of the matters before the Plan Commission.

- **Councilor Brian Novak:** • *Waterworks Board Liaison • Fire Personnel Committee Lake County Solid Waste Management District Board of Directors member • Insurance Committee, member.*

Councilor Novak the status of several projects under the aegis of the Waterworks Department, including the water main replacement scheduled for Gordon Place.

Councilor Novak reported from the Lake County Solid Waste Management District Board of Directors its consideration of selection a special trash to ethanol contractor, and the challenge of coordinating several Lake County cities and towns to direct their trash collections to the trash to ethanol facility.

- **Councilor Konnie Kuiper:** *Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners Liaison • Traffic Safety Commission Member • Chamber of Commerce Liaison.*

Councilor Kuiper commented on his positive impressions from his recent experience riding along with a patrol officer during a regular tour of duty.

Councilor Kuiper expressed thanks to Terry Krooswyk of Krooswyk Trucking for his assistance with moving confiscated and abandoned bicycles from the nearby police storage garage to the public works facility.

- **Councilor Bernie Zemen:** *Town Executive • Police Pension Board of Trustees Chair • Budget Committee Chair • Redevelopment Commission Liaison • Plan Commission member • Insurance Committee, member.*

Council President Zemen reported that the Board of Trustees of the Police Pension Fund would be meeting, Friday, March 28 at 8:00 a.m.

Council President Zemen reported that the Redevelopment Commission was discussing the merits of expanding the existing Redevelopment District.

Comments from the Public for Matters not on the Agenda

1. Ray Goodrich, 3728 – 42nd Place, Highland, inquired about some news accounts he attributed to the TIMES representing that the Hammond Sanitary District, may “throttle down” customer communities, including Highland, during storm events owing to these communities sending waste water in excess of its contractual peak amounts. It was noted that the Town of Highland experiences inflow and infiltration issues, meaning storm water can find its way into the wastewater infrastructure, especially during heavy rainstorm events. This contributes to the greater than peak volumes about which Hammond expressed concern. It was further noted that the Town of Highland is charged for the higher volumes.
2. Jim Diehl, 10104 Kennedy Avenue, Highland, inquired seeking clarification as to whether or not the Town of Highland actually pays Hammond for storm water to be treated during these storm events. Mr. Diehl further opined that neighboring communities contribute to Highland’s storm water volumes.
3. Ray Goodrich, 3728 42nd Place Highland, expressed his support for capital improvements at Lincoln Community Center and inquired about the effects of bonding and what if any impact the recent legislative changes to the property tax system would have on bonding for the improvements.

Payment of Accounts Payable Vouchers. There being no further business from the floor, Councilor Herak moved to allow the accounts payable vouchers as filed on the pending pay docket, covering the period March 11, 2008 through to March 24, 2008. Councilor Novak seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The accounts payable vouchers were allowed and the clerk-treasurer was authorized to make payment.

General Fund, \$233,602.51; Motor Vehicle Highway and Street (MVH) Fund, \$46,067.70; Forfeited and Seized Assets Fund, \$51.90; Law Enforcement Cont. Education and Supply Fund, \$1,441.24; Gasoline Agency Fund, \$31,168.39; Information and Communications Technology Fund, \$4,870.11; Solid Waste District Grant Fund, \$25,900.00; Special Events Non Reverting Fund, \$7.13; Municipal Cumulative Capital Development Fund, \$6,308.54; Gaming Revenue Sharing Fund, \$16,000.00; Total: \$365,417.52.

Adjournment. Councilor Kuiper moved that the meeting be adjourned. Councilor Novak seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The regular meeting of the Town Council of Monday, March 24, 2008 was adjourned at 8:03 O'clock p.m.

There was no study session following the meeting.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/CMC/CPFA
Clerk-Treasurer